

Blood and Bleeding

This file contains references to bleeding (as in the medical practice) found in Ebenezer Parkman's diary. Not included are such references as bloody flux, the bleeding of animals, references to wounds, the blood of Christ, blood relations. Nor is the reference to cat's blood on burns included (December 2, 1747).

1736 January 23 (Friday). A Melancholly House! My Wife has a Strong *burning* -- and particularly *Pluretic* Fever, and *Lucy* very low, in great Danger. Her pluretic Fever Strong, Cough Straining and in general exceeding weak and Distressed -- but *Thomme* a little more Comfortable and got up to Day, though not yesterday. Dr. *Gott* here -- my wife was Blooded. Brother *Hicks's* Family ill also -- *Ruth* especialy -- Doctor Blooded her.

1739 February 13 (Tuesday). Dr. Convers, by Dr. Gotts message to him as he was at Sudbury, came up to visit my wife. Afterwards came Dr. Gott. They find her very low, her Blood exceeding Weak, her swelling in her Legg increased and advanc'd into her Body, her Urine has been to a great Degree Supprest'd ever since this Second Legg was Seiz'd with the Pain. Her medicines are Chalbiats¹ mix'd with Castor, and Ocul. Cancror with Sal. Nitr. Her bathing with spirits of wine continued but her Pultis ceases, her Teas of Horse Radish, Fennel and Parseley Roots, and we now lay on a Blister.

1739 November 2 (Friday). The Doctor came and bleeds me again. Gave Something to prevent my purging. P.M. Nei[gh]bours on the South side came and got wood. John Rogers and Sister Hicks watch'd. A Bad Night.

1739 November 4 (Sunday). No Preaching, but few at Meeting. Doctor came. Bleeds again and gave Rubarb which work'd kindly. Deacon Newton and My Niece Eliza watch'd. A dismal Night!

1739 November 6 (Tuesday). Doctor came. Found me with a very bad Sore Throat, my Head on the back part great disorder'd -- tottering and pained -- Yet he judg'd I was better, and did not bleed me. Mr. Stone visited me and pray'd with us. Several of my Nei[gh]bours here. My Head grew worse and those Disorders were very troublesome. But I had some good Rest nevertheless. Samuel Baker and Molly Lee watch'd.

1739 November 1 (Thursday). Dr. Gott came -- judg'd I am taken with an high Inflammatory Rhumatism. Bled me in the right arm -- insisted upon my taking my Turbith if diminished. N.B. It work'd 5 times up, and 30 or 40 Times downward. Nathan Maynard was Sent for the Doctor but he did not come, but Sent a Plaister, etc. Nathan Maynard and Bekky Hicks watch'd.

1739 November 8 (Thursday). About 4 o'Clock in the Morning my Wife got up by reason of my great Extremity, and desir'd Mr. Whipple to go away for the Doctor which he did. The Doctor

¹A chalybeate medicine was impregnated with or flavored with iron.

came about 10 o'Clock and saw my Distress'd State, bled me again and gave me a portion of Rubarb which work'd kindly and my Breath was better Somewhat. Yet it remained bad. Captain Eager watch'd. A very labouring Breath Still. My Niece Eliza carry'd down by Ensign Maynard.

1740 November 11 (Tuesday). My Wife rode to Marlborough with Brother Hicks upon my mare, to be blooded, and return'd at Evening.

1744 December 12 (Wednesday). My Wife and I rode to Marlborough. Call'd at Neighbour Matthias Rice's, where was Mr. Thomas Ward. My wife was blooded by Dr. Gott, and we din'd with him.

1740 October 10 (Friday). Last Night my Wife had a terrible Convulsion Fitt, But through Gods great mercy it did not continue long. She by Degrees came to her Senses again. Brother Hicks was call'd and sent for Dr. Gott. His young man came, he being himself at Boston, celebrating his own Nuptials. The young man attempted to Bleed my Wife but miss'd the Veins Some Number of Times; but when daily Light came on he succeeded and she bled freely. She was in her pregnancy 4 or 5 Months gone. The bleeding She judg'd was very beneficial to her. Mr. Baines went home.

1742 February 9 (Tuesday). P.M. came Neighbour *Jedidiah How* and *Seth Rice*. N.B. Mr. James Fay came for me to go and see *Isaiah Pratt* who lay in a Strange Condition at his House -- not having Spoke nor been sensible ever since nine o'Clock last night. I went to him and seeing him lye so insensible, and his pulse *exceeding Slow* I advised them to send for Dr. Gott to bleed him, but sitting by him and rousing him by Degrees he came *to*. Many were present and were astonished. When he regained his senses he Said he had not been to Sleep; had seen Hell and had seen Christ; and said Christ told him his name was in the Book of Life etc. When he had taken some Slender Food he yet further revived and Spake more freely. We gave Thanks and prayed and I gave some Exhortation.

1750 February 13 (Tuesday). Ebenezer So ill that I sent for Mr. Stephen Maynard to go for Dr. Gott, who accordingly went for him. While my Neighbour was gone the Pain in Ebenezers Side was very extreme. The Doctor himself came not, but his young man Frink, who blooded my Son. He was Somewhat easier and I walk'd over to the Meeting about my Affairs.

1750 February 14 (Wednesday). As to Ebenezer, the pains are moderated, but he has a Strong Fever. Dr. Gott came and blooded him.... At Eve Ebenezer very restless; has been all along very Thirsty: and his Case throws us into much Concern.

1750 April 30 (Monday). Rode to Mr. Dunlops to see him in his Sickness. Lieutenant Tainter blooded him. I return'd with him to his House, as a terrible Storm of Thunder and Rain arose.

1751 April 30 (Tuesday). My Wife went to Marlborough and was blooded. She return'd at Eve.

1751 June 17 (Monday). Ebenezer So out of Health that he goes to Day to Dr. Smith, is blooded and took Physick.

1751 June 25 (Tuesday). My Wife growing very Lame, I waited on her to Lieutenant Bezaleel Eagers, where She was blooded by Dr. Smith. I left her and proceeded up the Road to enquire after Clabboards....

1751 July 17 (Wednesday). My Wife and I rode to Captain Bakers, where lodges Mr. Thomas Chase, a young Practitioner in Physick and Surgery. My wife blooded by him.

1751 December 13 (Friday). P.M. Mrs. Forbush, the Deacons Wife, fell from Mr. Wymans (of Shrewsbury) Horse, a little South of the Stables. She was much stunn'd. Mr. Wyman and I took her up in an arm Chair and brought her into my House. Sent for Dr. Chase, who came: he let her Blood. She by Degrees came to. I sent by her son Bowman to her Husband. He and his son Jonathan and Mr. Tainter brought a Whirrey, and they carry'd her Home.

1755 April 8 (Tuesday). Lucy and I ride to Marlborough to consult Dr. Brigham about her. She is blooded -- we din'd there.

1757 August 11 (Thursday). My wife blooded by Dr. Chase.

1758 August 2 (Wednesday). Dr. *Hemingway* came in the morning and opened my Wife's Breast. Dr. Rice was also present. It was no more than a blood-letting, as to the Doctors part. My Wife bore it with a good Spirit. Its issue was corrupt Matter and Blood. The Doctors went to Breakfast with me.

1759 October 19 (Friday). Had a very bad Night last, the worst of any yet, this sickness. It was by reason of the Fever, and a most terrible oppression at my stomach, which gave me great pain in drawing my Breath -- held me for 2 Hours in the Dead of Night, but either by taking a Portion of Polychriston, or putting on Rie Cakes, to my [Face?], or rather by the merciful Hand of God with them, I was greatly relieved, and about one o'Clock could lie on my right side and went to sleep for some time. But still it was a tedious Night. This morning Alexander went again to Dr. Wilson to acquaint him with what had occurred, and to desire another Visit. Deacon Tainter here a.m. I write to young Mr. Dorr, to desire him to preach for me next Lords Day; and Deacon undertakes to carry it. I feel exceeding poorly to Day, and wait the Will of God! The Doctor came, judges with me that there are Pripneumonic sumptions. He takes away about 5 ounces, or not more he thinks than 6, of Blood. Orders a Blister on my left side, and leaves me to take plentifully of Volatiles. [60?] Drops every three or 4 ho. He desires Counsel -- Dr. Morse of Sutton -- and Dr. Hemingway of Framingham. I obtained Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt to go for the former. No body goes for the latter. I somewhat dreaded the Night -- but

1757 September 29 (Thursday). Dr. Chase bleeds my wife.

1759 October 20 (Saturday). Through the divine Mercy I had considerable rest, though fever, pain etc. The Peripneum. symptoms much abated. D.G. And feel somewhat comfortable. Deacon Tainter brings Letter from Mr. Dorr that he is engaged for next Lords Day. But will come the soonest he can. P.M. Dr. Morse and Dr. Wilson here and dine. Neighbour Pratt with them. The Doctors retire and consult: they advise to go on in the Course I am in, except if the Symptoms of Peripneum. return, to renew Bleeding. Mr. N. Whitney here. Mrs. Lucy Forb. kindly helps us p.m. But the main matter Is God with Me!

1760 April 2 (Wednesday). In the Morning visited Mr. Williams again. He grows worse. I prayed with him. Dr. Crosby there. He blooded him yesterday -- took another Pint this morning. Thinks his Case extremely hazzardous. I am deeply concerned for him -- he is partly delirious. May God most gracious extend Mercy and Compassion! Last Night was twelve Months his only sister, Mrs. Dorothy Maynard dyed.

1760 October 4 (Saturday). When I came home found my Wife ill, confined, and Dr. *Willson* with her. She had a great Cold, Cough and faintness. The Doctor took a Pint of Blood from her.

1764 September 8 (Saturday). *Lydia* has been with us for some Days; but is now not well and goes to Dr. Ball to be blooded.

1772 February 20 (Thursday). A Messenger for me to go to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain, whose Tongue is greatly Swelled So that he can very hardly Speak or Swallow. I hastened down to him. Find every one in great Distress. Dr. Flynt there, who Says it is *Rana Sub Lingua*. Dr. Parker came also. We prayed and then Dr. F. blooded him under the Tongue, and it gave Some Relief. However, his Case is still judged to be hazzardous.

1774 August 1 (Monday). *Martin Piper*, a Lad in his 12th Year, was thrown by a Colt, and his Head came down on a Rock, nigh Mr. Newtons. He was carryed in there. It was feared to be a mortal Blow. Mr. Newton came in haste for me. I went. He was delirious. Dr. Hawes soon blooded him. He bled well. Vomited Several Times -- inclined to sleep; when any thing was given him, he cryed out bitterly, but could not speak. I prayed with him. What a Warning! Especially to Youth! But how great the Mercy he was not killed! His parents much distressed.

1774 August 6 (Saturday). Went to Lt. Bakers in the morning. Dr. *Charles Russell*, Dr. *Flynt*, Dr. *Hawes*, and a Number of Doctors besides being there on the Case of the poor Boy, *Calvin Piper* - (who last Evening began to recover his senses and to Speak -- and is this morning composed and utters himself pertinently.) It was feared the Trepan must be used: but it was first determined to take off part of his scalp and examine his Head. We began with prayer. Dr. *Russel* performed the Operation, and finding the grumous Blood, and that there was no Fracture, desisted from any thing further.

1775 June 20 (Tuesday). *Aaron* watched with *John* last night, and is blooded himself by Dr. *Hawes* this morning. *John* very weak and low.

1777 March 27 (Thursday). I rode to *Southborough* on Mr. Ebenezer Forbushs Horse to See Mr. *Stone* and his Family. Mr. *Stone* informed me that his Daughter *Rice* was thought to be dying and that he, being sent for, was riding there, but the Horse stumbled and threw him, by which he was sadly bruised -- and was blooded. His Daughter *Joanna* very ill of a Fever, and keeps her Bed.

1777 June 27 (Friday). The Two Doctors here. *Hannah* Blooded.